

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Osamu TAKAGI et al.

Title: FIXING MECHANISM FOR USE IN IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS

Appl. No.: Unassigned

Filing Date: 03/04/2004

Examiner: Unassigned

Art Unit: Unassigned

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56**

Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants submit herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 a listing of the documents cited by or submitted to the U.S. PTO in parent application Serial No. 10/154,970, filed 05/28/2002. As provided in 37 CFR §1.98(d), copies of the documents are not being provided since they were previously submitted to the United States Patent & Trademark Office in the above-identified parent application.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), within three (3) months of the filing date of the application.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

The relevance of the foreign-language documents is explained in the parent application.

Applicants respectfully request that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

By _____



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Substitute for form 1449B/PTO				Complete if Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Date Submitted: March 4, 2004 <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Application Number	Unassigned
Sheet	1	of	1	Filing Date	03/04/2004
				First Named Inventor	Osamu TAKAGI
				Group Art Unit	Unassigned
				Examiner Name	Unassigned
				Attorney Docket Number	016907-1610

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
A1	6,643,476	B1		KINOUCHI ET AL.	11-04-2003	
A2	6,026,273			KINOUCHI ET AL.	02-15-2000	
A3	6,078,781			TAKAGI ET AL.	06-20-2000	
A4	6,337,969	B1		TAKAGI ET AL.	01-08-2002	
A5	6,438,335	B1		KINOUCHI ET AL.	08-20-2002	
A6	4,585,325			EULER	04-29-1986	
A7	5,819,134			SATO ET AL.	10-06-1998	
A8	5,842,079			MIYAMOTO ET AL.	11-24-1998	
A9	5,862,436			ISHIZAWA ET AL.	01-19-1999	
A10	6,008,829			WAKAMIYA ET AL.	12-28-1999	
A11	6,188,054	B1		OHTA	02-13-2001	
A12	6,292,647	B1		ISHIDA	09-18-2001	
A13	6,292,648	B1		HIGAYA ET AL.	09-18-2001	
A14	6,320,168	B1		KIMATA ET AL.	11-20-2001	
A15	6,353,718	B1		ROXON ET AL.	03-05-2002	
A16	6,643,491	B2		KINOUCHI ET AL.	11-04-2003	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			
A17	JP	8-76620	A	CANON INC.	03-22-1996		
A18	JP	9-258586	A	MINOLTA CO., LTD.	10-03-1997		

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.				T ⁶	
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	Date		
	A19				U.S. Patent Application, 09/699,472, KINOUCHI et al., filed 10/31/2000.		

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.